



FORT PITT

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

YEAR 7
PROSPECTUS
2022 ENTRY

A **Beyond** ACADEMY
SCHOOLS TRUST

WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to Fort Pitt Grammar School for Girls. Here at Fort Pitt, a school founded in 1919, we are proud of our long tradition of academic success, sporting and cultural achievement and service to the community.

It is a vibrant and dynamic school with high expectations and great ambitions for every one of its students. We are a proud member of the Beyond Schools Trust, as one of the leading schools, we share in an exemplary network of educational leaders who put high standards of learning and teaching at the heart of all we do.

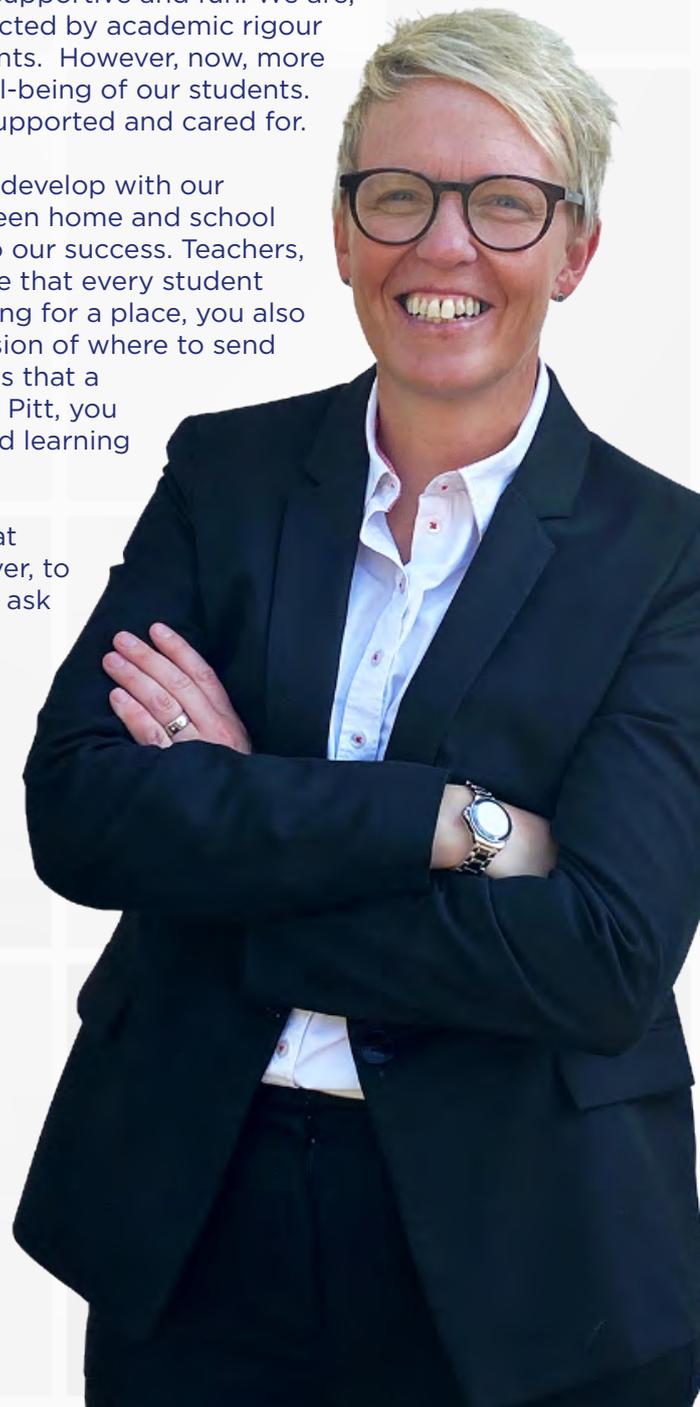
Our aim is a very simple one, that every student at Fort Pitt receives a better educational experience than they would if they attended any other school. Your child gets one chance at education, and I assure you that if you entrust your child to us we will work tirelessly to ensure they have an education that is academically challenging, supportive and fun. We are, as you know, a grammar school, and this of course is reflected by academic rigour in our teaching, and in our high expectations of our students. However, now, more than ever this needs to be balanced with ensuring the well-being of our students. As such our pastoral care is first-class and students feel supported and cared for.

As a school we take pride in the positive relationships we develop with our students and their families. Successful co-operation between home and school is vitally important, and I firmly believe a key ingredient to our success. Teachers, families, support staff and leaders work together to ensure that every student realises their potential. We therefore ask that when applying for a place, you also embrace our high expectations and core values. The decision of where to send your child to school is one of the most important decisions that a parent/carer will make. Rest assured that in selecting Fort Pitt, you are opting for a school which has exceptional teaching and learning at its heart, and where students feel safe and happy.

This prospectus will only give you a little flavour as to what Fort Pitt is all about, but it gives a good indication. However, to fully appreciate all we have to offer, please do visit us and ask our fantastic students and staff any questions; they'll be more than happy to help. With very best wishes,



Nicky Archer
Headteacher



“This is an outstanding school. It provides an excellent education for its students” *(Ofsted)*

OUR VALUES

Over the course of my first year at Fort Pitt, I met with the Student Council on a number of occasions and asked for contributions from all students and staff in regards to how we celebrate success here at Fort Pitt. This led to everyone here at Fort Pitt working together to devise a new rewards and sanctions system.

This is based upon our new **'Fort Pitt Values'**, a set of core beliefs devised by both students and staff, which we feel encapsulates what we wish our students to strive towards during their seven years with us. Our values run through everything we do, and reflect our culture of ensuring our students' happiness is at the heart of all our decisions.



LEARNING & TEACHING

Exceptional learning and teaching is non-negotiable and underpins life at Fort Pitt. Students are privileged to be taught by a team of superb teachers who are passionate about their subjects. Every lesson counts in ensuring our students achieve the very best that they can, and as such, teachers came together to design our learning and teaching charter, which provides a snapshot of what excellent learning and teaching should look like.

We believe in high quality professional development of all our team, and this has clear benefits for students who learn from exceptionally skilled and knowledgeable teachers. Expert teaching and support staff are resolute in their resolve that Fort Pitt be a happy and thriving community, where academic excellence is entwined with ensuring our students are happy, confident and resilient. Students are challenged and supported in equal measure, and this fine balance enables them to fulfil their potential in all areas of school life. Teachers aim to foster a lifelong love of learning within our students, with their passion and expertise clear in all that they do.

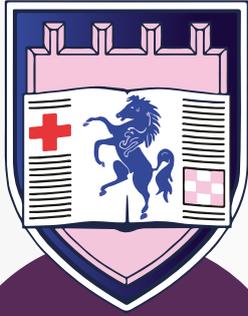


Outstanding learning and teaching should support students in their pursuit of academic excellence, and encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning. We also aim to develop grit and resilience, teaching our students that overcoming setbacks is a key skill, one which will serve them well throughout their school years and beyond.

We believe that outstanding teaching comes in a variety of guises, but at its core are teachers with a passion and enthusiasm for their subjects, who are motivated by inspiring young minds. The teaching team at Fort Pitt are fantastic practitioners, who really do go ‘the extra mile’ for all their students.

Subject leaders continually review and refresh the curriculum, ensuring it equips our students with the knowledge and skills essential for a successful future.

“ Students’ achievement is outstanding ” *(Ofsted)*



MAKING EVERY LESSON COUNT

CHALLENGE

- All students challenged
- High expectations
- Use of academic language
- Pace
- High challenge, low stress

EXPLANATIONS

- Shared vision
- Build on prior knowledge
- Engaged, active and enthusiastic
- All learning styles incorporated
- Development of student schema

MODELLING

- Suitable scaffolding
- Novice learners led by expert teachers
- Stretch and challenge
- Fluency and retention
- Safe learning environment

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- Curriculum mapped
- Time to revise and practise
- Independent and resilient
- Retrieval and interleaving
- Low stake quizzes

DIFFERENTIATED QUESTIONING

- Learning checked and misconceptions identified
- Contextualised learning
- Assessment for learning
- Exam style questioning
- Application of knowledge

FEEDBACK

- Encourages progress
- Metacognition
- Retrieval of knowledge
- Planning based on marking and assessment
- Self and peer assessment

OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum has been expertly designed to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve success at the highest level. It is delivered by talented and committed teachers using a variety of teaching methods, both inside and outside the classroom. Regular reviews of subject content, teaching and learning and assessment take place, to ensure that our practice is always improving. A focus on breadth, balance and differentiation at every level means that we are uniquely positioned to address the individual needs of our students.

Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum at Fort Pitt endeavours to provide a broad and balanced experience for all students, which allows them to discover and begin to fulfil their potential in a wide range of subjects.

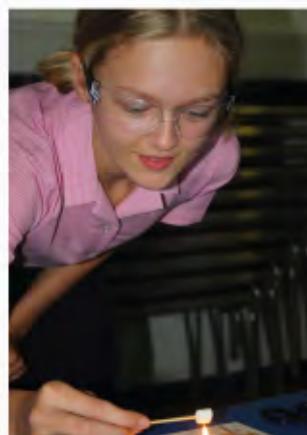
In the first three years of a student's time at Fort Pitt, lessons will cover the full range of National Curriculum subjects, together with Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Philosophy and Ethics, and Careers Guidance.

To further enrich this core academic curriculum, we also offer Modern Foreign Languages, Art and Design Technology, and we have invested in a large number of peripatetic music staff, trained to give specialised, individual or group lessons.

Key stage 4

Students study GCSEs from the beginning of Year 10 and complete their courses in Year 11. Our aim is to ensure that by the age of 16 all students have an exceptionally strong core of GCSEs, including English, Mathematics and the Sciences, together with a variety of other subjects. At present, all students continue to study core Philosophy and Ethics, PE and PSHE throughout Key Stage 4. Students are strongly encouraged to choose English Baccalaureate subjects, alongside those subjects they really enjoy.

From the start of Key Stage 4 to the end of their time at Fort Pitt, students receive current and relevant information, advice and guidance relating to careers, higher education and future pathways.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We offer significant academic support to all students and closely monitor attainment and progress throughout the year. In addition to the evaluation of test and assessment scores that are reported to parents, we also take the time to discuss concerns or worries with students and families on a regular basis.

Our highly committed and superb teaching staff offer an abundance of out-of-hours extension, booster and catch-up sessions, and are always happy to go the extra mile to help students. We have a team of SAMS (Student Academic Mentors) drawn from outstanding performers and subject experts in the Sixth Form, that support younger students from years 7-11 that have been identified as requiring help to catch up in certain areas.

We encourage all our students and parents to speak to us openly and frankly if they feel additional academic support is needed and we will always do our best to help



STUDENT WELLBEING AND PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care at Fort Pitt is first-class and ensures that our students' pursuit for academic excellence is balanced with a focus on their wellbeing. Each year group is led by a dedicated Head of Year, who has over-arching responsibility for the progress and care of the students in their year.

We also have a House system comprised of four Houses: Meaden, Ryder, Somerville and Westwood, all of which encompass a mixture of students from Year 7 through to Year 13. This helps develop mutual cross-year support and challenge which is a significant part of our ethos and culture. It also instills a healthy competitive spirit between the four Houses, in particular through House Arts, Sports events, Inter-House activities and variety of other fun challenges! We have dedicated full-time Achievement Coordinators, who further support students' academic, personal and emotional needs. Allied to this we are also fortunate to have a number of specialists, including a fully qualified counsellor and an Educational Psychologist.

“Initiatives to ensure a harmonious atmosphere and respect for all, such as counselling or evaluation of students' emotional literacy, underpin the school's excellent focus on equality and elimination of discrimination.” (Ofsted)



DEVELOPING THE WHOLE STUDENT

We take real pride in offering a wide range of activities which enrich and extend our students. Our offer is dynamic and varies from year to year according to the expertise of our staff, but we always endeavour to provide stimulating options to suit every student's talents and interests. These activities enhance and extend the taught curriculum and give opportunities for students from different year groups to mix together.

Out of school

Cultural visits abroad: recent overseas trips have taken students to countries as diverse as Morocco, Nepal, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Iceland and the USA.

Skiiing trips: destinations have included the French Alps and Austrian Tyrol.

Fieldwork: including geographical trips to the Olympic Park and Finland.

Visits to historic buildings, galleries, theatres, museums and workshops: to complement specific areas of the curriculum, especially Art, Geography, History, Philosophy and Ethics, and English.

World Challenge activities: this year students flew off to Vietnam, completing a variety of projects within a small village community.

Visits to universities and public lectures: we have close links with Russell Group and 1994 Group universities.

In school

Music: Our awesome Music department provide a wide array of clubs, including recorder, flute choir, choir, ukulele group and jazz band

Drama clubs and House activities

School productions involving music, drama and dance - culminating in the whole school summer performance.

Debating Society and Philosophy club

Sports clubs and teams

Mathematics Challenge, Mini-Enterprise, and various Scientific Lectures

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Surgeries and clinics to support learning in specific subjects

Community and voluntary work for older students. This involves a regular placement at a local primary school, charity shop, residential home, or animal charity etc.

Student mentorship opportunities

National Citizenship Scheme (N.C.S.)

THE SCHOOL DAY

At Fort Pitt, the school day begins promptly at **8:25am** and ends at **3:00pm**.
Students are expected to arrive at school no later than 8:20am.

We operate a two-week timetable, with each school day divided into six 50-minute periods, with a 20-minute morning break and 50 minutes for lunch

The morning session begins with registration and/or assembly. Assemblies are tailored to include students of all faiths, and we encourage everyone to participate fully in these special shared occasions

At lunchtime and after school, many students participate in a wide variety of enrichment and extension activities, ranging from competitive sports to music lessons. In addition, the school provides study support groups across the curriculum, to ensure that students consolidate and build upon their academic learning

An exemplar KS3 timetable:

	WEEK A					WEEK B				
PERIOD	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
REGISTRATION/ASSEMBLY										
P1	Spanish	Maths	PE	History	Maths	Maths	Science	Music	Geog	PLE
P2	Drama	Spanish	Art	Science	Comp Sci	Spanish	Spanish	PE	Sci	Science
BREAK										
P3	English	History	Maths	Maths	Spanish	PSHE	PLE	Science	English	English
P4	Music	Comp Sci	Science	Geog	Art	PE	Science	English	Drama	Art
P5	Comp Sci	Science	Spanish	English	PE	Art	History	Maths	Science	Art
LUNCH										
P6	Science	Geog	English	PSHE	English	Science	English	Science	Maths	Maths

Timings of the day:

	FROM	TO
SCHOOL OPEN FROM	7:30AM	4.30PM
REGISTRATION/ASSEMBLY	8.25 AM	8.45 AM
PERIOD 1	8.45 AM	9.35 AM
PERIOD 2	9.40 AM	10.30 AM
BREAK	10.30 AM	10.50 AM
PERIOD 3	10.50 AM	11.40 AM
PERIOD 4	11.45 AM	12.35 PM
PERIOD 5	12.40 PM	1:30PM
LUNCH	1.30 PM	2.10 PM
PERIOD 6	2.10 PM	3.00 PM
EXTRA-CURRICULAR	3.00 PM	4.30 PM

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Uniform

At Fort Pitt, we believe that successful and happy learning starts with self-respect. Accordingly, we have high expectations of how our students should behave and present themselves at all times, wherever they may be.

All students in Years 7 - 11 wear the school uniform and are expected to take pride in their appearance. This attitude of self-respect does not start at the school gate, but should apply at all times that a student is wearing the Fort Pitt uniform, including the journey to and from school.

The following list provides details of what constitutes the correct school uniform. It is non-negotiable, and any persistent failure to comply with it will lead to appropriate sanctions.

Girls should wear

- A navy-blue blazer with school badge and house colours.
- A pink-checked, open-necked, short or long-sleeved school blouse.
- An official, navy blue, pleated school skirt, which must measure no longer than 6cm below the knee and no shorter than 6cm above the knee. Please note: the pleats are stitched down at the top of the skirt or official, navy blue trousers (straight-leg style).
- A navy blue, V-necked, long-sleeved sweater, with the school logo on the left-hand side. Jumpers are optional.
- Plain white, navy or black socks (under the knee) or navy, black or flesh-coloured tights, with no patterns.
- Plain black shoes: this means no platform heels, stilettos, sling backs, trainers, boots or canvas shoes (such as Vans or Converse) and no heel higher than 4cm. Kickers under-ankle boots are acceptable.
- Dark coloured coat, all coats should be plain and display no prominent logos.

PE Kit (All items to be clearly labelled)

- Polo Shirt & Shorts/Skort (embroidered with student initials).
- Hoodie & Plain navy jogging bottoms (no logos).
- Long blue socks & Plain white ankle socks (these can only be worn in the summer term - no logos or frills).
- Trainers & optional Football boots.
- PE bag (available from School time).
- Shin pads (optional).
- Hair band.

ALL UNIFORM IS AVAILABLE FROM THE 'SCHOOL TIME' SHOP IN CHATHAM.

Address: School Time, 23 Railway Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4HU
Phone: 01634 831684
Email: info@schooltime.co.uk
Website: www.schooltime.co.uk

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Jewellery/Make-up/Hair

Jewellery is not allowed, apart from a watch and one small stud (no larger than 0.5cm) in the lobe of each ear. Facial and body piercings are not acceptable and should be removed whenever a student is wearing school uniform.

Hair should be of one natural colour and conventionally styled: coloured or shaved hair is not permitted. Please contact the school if you are unsure as to what is acceptable; we will be happy to advise. Discreet make-up is allowed in Years 7-11.

Parents are asked to note these basic expectations and to support the school in maintaining high standards of appearance. We would ask that you check with the school before buying anything about which you have doubts, to avoid unnecessary expense.

Holidays

At Fort Pitt we believe that excellent attendance is essential for students to realise their academic potential. As such we ask parents/carers to support us in upholding this expectation. If it becomes necessary to withdraw your child from school, for any period of time, you need to ask our permission to approve the absence. You cannot authorise an absence by yourself. Please do not ask for leave for a family holiday in term-time, we will only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances.

Rewards and Sanctions

Behaviour at Fort Pitt is superb, and every student is expected to behave in a sensible, considerate and courteous manner, respecting other people, their possessions and the environment.

Our House system links closely to our Fort Pitt values. Students can gain house points for a variety of activities both in and out of school. As they accrue House points, students receive a variety of rewards, from certificates to vouchers. We celebrate everyone's successes with Celebration assemblies taking place at the end of every term.

For the rare occasions when students fail to live up to our values and code of conduct, the school has a detention system. Any student who earns a detention will be asked to remain for an hour after school, during which time she might be given additional academic work or supervised tasks to improve the school environment. Parents will always be given 24 hours' notice of a detention, and they are responsible for their child's journey home afterwards.

"Girls behave extremely well...they receive a very high quality of care and guidance that supports their excellent well-being and personal development" (Ofsted)



YEAR 7 ADMISSION PROCESS 2022 ENTRY

Fort Pitt is a selective grammar school for students aged 11-18. It has no particular religious affiliation. Every September 150 students are admitted to Year 7 on the basis of a selection procedure. Late entry to Years 7-11 will be decided by assessment and to the Sixth Form on the basis of GCSE results.

If you would like to apply for a place for your child in Year 7, your child should have been successful in recent selection tests and you should then:

1. Visit our website (from the 7th October 2021) and view the Headteachers welcome and decide whether you think Fort Pitt Grammar School is the right School.
2. Complete a Medway secondary common application form, indicating Fort Pitt Grammar School as a preferred school.



OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

1. Students in Public Care

Looked after children defined as being in the care of the local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application to Fort Pitt Grammar School. This applies also to those students who are previously looked after children who have ceased to be so due to being adopted or who have become subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order as defined in the Admissions Code.

2. Siblings

The sibling of a student who will still be attending the school at the time the student would be admitted. In this context "sibling" means children who live in the same house, including natural, adopted, step and foster siblings

3. Beyond Schools Trust - Junior Academies

Students who have attended a school within the Beyond Schools Trust namely, Balfour Junior School and Phoenix Primary School.

4. Children of staff

Where the member of Fort Pitt staff has been employed for three years or more at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or where the member of Fort Pitt staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

5. Girls residing within 2 miles of the school

This is measured by the Medway Council Geographical Information System

6. Girls residing in one of the following parishes: Allhallows, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, Cooling, Cuxton, Frindsbury Extra, Halling, High Halstow, Hoo St Werburgh, St James, Isle of Grain, St Mary Hoo, Stoke

7. All other eligible girls seeking a school place

These will be allocated according to nearness of home to school, using the shortest, safe walking distance, measured by the Medway Council Geographical Information System.

Tiebreaker: In the unlikely event that two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

